

NOT EVEN PAST



Looking at World War II

Tweet

by Joan Neuberger

Looking at World War II on Wikimedia Commons

As more and more archives and news agencies digitalize their collections, a rich store of historical photographs is available to anyone with a computer. World War II was documented by photographers around the world and many of their photographs are now posted on Wikipedia's website for images in the public domain (free for anyone to view and copy), [Wikimedia Commons](#).



In 2008, the [German Federal Archives](#) made a large collection of WWII photos, 100,000 images, [available on Wikimedia](#). These include battle and home front photos from all over the Europe. Here we see Hitler delivering a speech at the [Kroll Opera House](#) to the men of the Reichstag on the subject of Roosevelt and the war in the Pacific, declaring war on the United States. Below, Nazi police in Poland check a Jewish woman's documents.

THE PUBLIC HISTORIAN

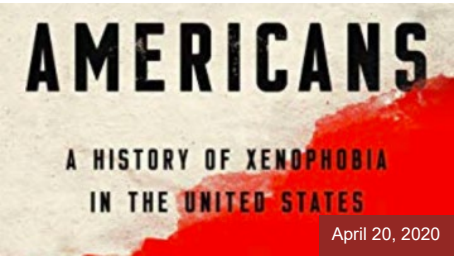
Making History: Houston's "Spirit of the Confederacy"



[More from The Public Historian](#)

BOOKS

America for Americans: A History of Xenophobia in the United States by Erika Lee (2019)



[More Books](#)

DIGITAL HISTORY

Ticha: Digital Archive Review

Following the example of the German Federal Archives, the Russian Information Agency, **Novosti**, began uploading photographs to Wikimedia for public domain access this year (2011). The first collection focused on **photos from World War II**. Here we see women fleeing from a bombed building during the Siege of Leningrad and below, a partisan instructing men on using weapons.



RIA Novosti Archive. #2153
Photo: Boris Kudoyarov | 12/10/1942

Even after looking at hundreds, if not thousands, of historical photos, I am still often struck by the immediacy of the past that photographs offer. This uncanny ability, to bring the past closer and give more nuanced understanding, make these collections invaluable tools for studying history.



More on Wednesday: private publications of photos from the experience of World War II in France and the U.S.

Photo Credits:

Photographer unknown, Deutsches Bundesarchiv



More from Digital History

FILMS & MEDIA

Ayka (Dir: Sergei Dvortsevov, 2018)



More from Films & Media

TEXAS

Spanish Flu in the Texas Oil Fields



More from Texas

Wirthgen, May 1941, Deutsches Bundesarchiv

Boris Kudoyarov, December 1942, RIA Novosti

Petrusov, August 1941, RIA Novosti

all public domain via Wikimedia Commons

Posted September 26, 2011

More [1900s](#), [Blog](#), [Europe](#), [Film/Media](#)

19th century

African American History

american history

Asia

Asia & Middle East

book review

Brazil

British Empire

China

Civil War

Cold War

Colonialism

communism

cultural history

digital history

Early Modern Europe

Europe

film

gender

history

History of Science

immigration

India

Islam

Latin America

Latin American History

Mexico

Not Even Past

Public History

race

religion

Russia

slavery

Texas

Texas History

Texas History Day

Transnational

Twentieth Century History

United States

US History

USSR

Womens History

world history

World War II

NOT EVEN PAST is produced by

The Department of History

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

We are supported by the College of Liberal Arts

And our **READERS**

DONATE

CONTACT

All content © 2010-present NOT EVEN PAST and the authors,

unless otherwise noted

Sign up to receive bi-weekly email updates

BOOKS

FILMS & MEDIA

THE PUBLIC HISTORIAN

BLOG

TEXAS

https://notevenpast.org/looking-world-war-ii/[5/28/2020 8:32:25 AM]